

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the specification by replacing paragraph [0010] of the published patent application, Pub. No. US 2007/0235336, as follows:

[0010] Thus, in practice, the process of increasing colloidal concentration and decreasing treatment efficiency tends to continue until engineering parameters depart from their acceptable ranges. In particular, both the engineering rheology parameters plastic viscosity (PV)^{PV} and yield point (YP)^{YP} (API 1988) must be kept within bounds for efficient drilling. As drilling proceeds, and possibly also as the fluid is moved from one job to another, the driller can eventually find that PV and YP increase beyond their upper limits until the fluid becomes unusable for drilling and untreatable by centrifuge.

Also, to correct a typographical error, please amend paragraph [0048] as follows:

[0048] An apparatus used for quantitative tests is shown schematically in FIG. 2. The apparatus consisted of a cylindrical epoxy conductivity cell **25** of internal diameter about 20 mm, having three axially spaced annular carbon electrodes **26**. The electrodes were connected to a constant voltage supply so that the center electrode was negatively charged and the other two were positively charged. Versaclean was poured into this cell and a constant voltage applied. A layer of oil **27** was observed to form at the surface of the mud **28** and an electro-deposit **29** collected on the negative electrode. A barite layer **30** settled at the bottom of the cell. The oil is believed to rise to the surface owing to a weakening of the gel as fine particles migrated from the center of the cell to form the deposit. The cell was weighed empty, and then after the treated drilling fluid (effluvate) was poured out. The increment of weight comprised the weight of the deposit and the residual fluid unremoved by gravity that adhered to the inside of the cell. The API Theological rheological parameters PV and YP, and the API 100 PSI fluid loss, were measured for the effluvate poured from the cell.